



Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 3 September 2019

**MOTION**

**Business Program**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.20 am): I may be accused of many things, but I am not going to cop that I am a filibusterer. I will not cop that. Not once have I filibustered. I have represented my constituents with the determination and the passion for which I was voted for, as each member of this chamber is voted for. It is not filibustering; it is discharging the duties that they are paid to do. That is what it is.

This Townsville sitting has been a shambles in terms of its preparedness by the government. The late notice of a Townsville sitting—the shortest notice in history for regional sittings, of which I have been to one in Mackay—put an immense amount of stress on members of the parliamentary staff to ensure they got here and got it ready. When I asked the Clerk at estimates when he first heard about the regional sitting in Townsville, he said that he read about it in the paper. That is when the government announced it and that is the planning. The only reason the Premier has found regional Queensland is as a result of the federal election on 18 May when she had a wake-up call that regional Queensland exists. We know the Premier spends more time on the tarmac in Shanghai, in Canada, in Paris, everywhere—

**An opposition member:** London!

**Mr BLEIJIE:**—London, the UK, than she does on the tarmac in regional Queensland. That is the truth. The Leader of the House wants to talk about statistics. In the last five years the Premier has spent more time overseas than she has in regional Queensland and now those opposite want to put it out there that they love regional Queensland. The LNP has always loved regional Queensland and we will spend more time in regional Queensland than will Labor ministers. In three days Labor members will go from here back to Brisbane—back to their comfort zone—where they can talk down the mining sector, talk down regional jobs and talk about reskilling the mining sector back in their happy place in West End where they do not think anyone in regional Queensland listens. We will remind them.

I spoke to the Leader of the House yesterday at 1.50 pm and she said to me that there would not be a business program motion today and there would be no Business Committee meeting yesterday afternoon. I then got an email at about 4.30 pm saying that there would be a Business Committee meeting. I was at a meeting with some great local teachers who drove from an hour and a half away to meet me because they do not believe the education minister is doing a good job. I sent the member for Mudgeeraba to the meeting on my behalf and then I got an email saying, 'We're now having a business program motion because the government will do in Townsville what it does in Brisbane,' and that is gag debate.

The government is guillotining debate. It is denying members the opportunity to speak. It talks about statistics. Members opposite say that more members have spoken. The reason that statistic is skewed is that members now have to cut their speeches to speak for only a couple of minutes. Why

have 10 minutes on the clock or 20 minutes for committee members if the government believes that each member should only be able to speak for one or two minutes? It may be that Labor members can only think of one to two minutes worth of things to say about their constituency, but the crossbench and opposition members can take the whole 10 minutes—can take the time as we are paid to do.

The Labor government forgets what it is here for. When they were in opposition Labor members talked about arrogance and hubris. The first thing they do in government is guillotine debate and stop debate happening. It is their job and I can say that they are spectacularly failing in their job. For goodness' sake, the member for Mundingburra got up here as a minister and answered a question. I think that is the first question I have seen her answer in five years as a minister. I forgot she was a minister.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** They are squawking. I look across the room and I do not identify half of them. So bereft of talent is that side of the government, they are unrecognisable both in person and in talent. We will always fight for more time—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Back to the motion please.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Absolutely, Mr Deputy Speaker. We will fight for more time because that is what Queenslanders expect and that is what regional Queenslanders expect. They want us to talk about the issues important to regional Queensland, and I suspect that there are better things to talk about this week.

*(Time expired)*